

Agenda

Item #2



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: December 4, 2014
Subject: Invitation to Comment on Contribution Limits

The Ethics Commission is inviting comments on how Maine Election Law should apply contribution limits to candidates. The law sets limits on the amounts that a donor may provide to a candidate in any election to promote their candidacy (\$1,500 per election for candidates for Governor, \$375 per election for legislative candidates, \$750 for other candidates). (21-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1015(1) & (2))

Under current law, candidates who are enrolled in a political party ("party candidates") generally participate in two elections and thus have two contribution limits. Unenrolled candidates (sometimes referred to as independent candidates) participate in only one election and have one contribution limit.

In July 2014, four donors to unenrolled gubernatorial candidate Eliot Cutler filed suit in federal court against the Commission, challenging the constitutionality of the contribution limits facially and as applied to them. In August 2014, the U.S. District Court decided that the plaintiffs had shown a strong likelihood of success of demonstrating that the \$1,500 per-election limit as applied to them violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution under the circumstances of the 2014 gubernatorial election in which neither of the party candidates competing against Mr. Cutler in the general election faced an opponent in the primary election.

The Commission is interested in receiving comments concerning how current law should be amended to address the court decision. Here are some approaches that could be considered, but you are welcome to suggest other approaches as well:

1. If a party candidate has no opponent in a primary election, the primary and general elections would be considered a single election for purposes of the contribution limits. Under this approach, primary election candidates *could* be required to return surplus funds that they received but did not use for the primary election.¹
2. If an unenrolled candidate for state office is running in a general election against party candidates who were all unopposed in their respective primary elections, the unenrolled candidate would be deemed to have a primary election for purposes of the contribution limits. Thus, in circumstances similar to the 2014 gubernatorial election, the unenrolled candidate would have two contribution limits – the same as his or her party opponents.
3. Instead of a maximum amount that a donor could give to a candidate per election, the limits could apply per election cycle or per year.

The members of the Ethics Commission would welcome your comments on these or other proposals at their meeting on December 22, 2014. The meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission's office at 45 Memorial Circle in Augusta. If you would like to submit written comments, please email them to Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov and I will circulate them to the Commissioners. The Commission will take your comments into consideration as it considers what statutory amendments, if any, to recommend to the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

¹ This is the law in Florida. (Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 106.08(2)(c) & (3)) A chart of contribution limits in the fifty states is available at http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/documents/legismgt/Limits_to_Candidates_2012-2014.pdf.

From: Ben Chipman [mailto:votechipman@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 8:41 AM
To: Wayne, Jonathan
Subject: Re: Invitation to Comment on Contribution Limits

Hi Jonathan,

I read your memo and would offer the following comments. As an Independent member of the Maine House of Representatives, I think the donor limit should be per election cycle per candidate regardless of whether it is the primary election, general election, or both. Under this approach a donor could contribute up to \$1,500 to a candidate for Governor for the year regardless of the candidate's party affiliation or what time of year the donation is made.

If we separate the primary election from the general we are allowing up to \$3,000 to be contributed to a candidate for Governor which is too much and significantly drives up the amount of money being raised and spent. We need to reduce the amount of money being raised and spent. \$1,500 is plenty for one person to contribute. I would also apply the same standard to legislative races- one limit for the election cycle.

Sincerely,
Ben Chipman



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**Additional Material
Agenda Item #8**

To: Commissioners
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: November 23, 2014
Re: Additional Information for Agenda Item #8

In the statute changes in the meeting packet, we included a proposal concerning how to apply contribution limits to candidates who are not enrolled in a political party. The current contribution limits are

Governor	\$1,500 per election
County office	\$750 per election
Legislative office	\$375 per election
Municipal office	\$750 per election

In the *Woodhouse* decision, the court found that it violated equal protection principles for donors to Eliot Cutler to be limited to giving \$1,500 whereas donors to Paul LePage or Michael Michaud could give \$1,500 for the primary election and another \$1,500 for the general election.

Our packet included a statutory proposal that if an unenrolled candidate is running against a party candidate who is on the ballot for a primary and general election, the unenrolled candidate would have two contribution limits – similar to the party candidate. The advantage of this proposal is that it is simple, keeps the structure of the current law (*i.e.*, per-election limits), and is analogous to the federal law that is in effect for congressional candidates. We acknowledge one potential policy objection to the proposal: an unenrolled candidate could, theoretically, stockpile contributions during the primary election period (gaining an advantage for the general election), while party

candidates in the same race would need to exhaust their primary election funds in order to win their party's nomination.

The Commission staff has not researched in depth how contribution limits are applied to unenrolled candidates in other states. We have scanned a compilation of contribution limits posted on the website of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).¹ If you would like, the staff could:

- outline some options in writing for the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs (VLA). These could be included with the written testimony for your agency bill, or in a packet of information that we anticipate providing to the VLA Committee in January; or
- present some options to you at your December or January meeting after conducting further research and/or soliciting comments.

After reviewing the NCSL compilation, there appear to be a number of alternatives:

- (1) Instead of limiting the amount that a donor may give to a candidate *per election*, the limits could be set *per year* (Massachusetts), or over a two-year period (Minnesota).
- (2) Limits could be set *per election cycle* (i.e., two, three, or four years – depending on the term of the office). (Maryland)
- (3) Contribution limits could continue to apply per election, but if a candidate is unopposed in a primary election, the primary and general elections could count as a single election for purposes of the contribution limits. (Florida)
- (4) The State could enact a lower contribution limit for a candidate who is unopposed in a primary election. Unenrolled candidates have the same limit for the primary election period as unopposed primary candidates.

Thank you for your consideration of this item.

¹ http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/documents/legismgt/Limits_to_Candidates_2012-2014.pdf



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MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: December 15, 2014
Subject: Option for Amending Contribution Limits

At your November 24, 2014 meeting, you discussed options for changing contribution limits to candidates (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1015) in light of the *Woodhouse* litigation. For your consideration, I have recorded below some proposed language that I received from Commissioner Meg Matheson prior to the November 24 meeting.

2-A. Contributions to unenrolled candidates. An unenrolled candidate who is seeking nomination by petition pursuant to chapter 5, section 2 is deemed to have a primary election for purposes of determining limits under this section only if no opposing party candidate in that election cycle has a contested primary election.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
The Forum for America's Ideas
State Limits on Contributions to Candidates^{i,ii}
 Updated October 2013

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Alabama Ala. Code §17-5-1 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Alaska AS 15.13.070, 15.13.074	\$500/candidate <i>Amount is per year.</i>	\$100,000/gub or LG candidate \$15,000/senate candidate \$10,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	\$1,000/candidate <i>Amount is per year</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited
Arizona ^{a,b} A.R.S. §16-901, 16-905, 16-919	\$1,010/statewide candidate \$488/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i> Aggregate contributions from an individual to all candidates and candidate committees: \$5,610 <i>Amount is per year.</i>	Aggregate contributions from all political parties or organizations to a single candidate: \$100,110/statewide candidate \$10,020/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Regular PAC: \$1,010/statewide candidate \$488/leg candidate Super PAC: ^c \$5,010/statewide candidate \$2,000/leg candidate Aggregate contributions from all PACs to a single candidate: \$100,110/statewide candidate \$16,150/leg candidate	Prohibited	Prohibited
Arkansas A.C.A. §7-6-201, 7-6-203	\$2,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$2,500/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	<i>Amounts are per election cycle</i> Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

^a According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every two years.

^b Arizona enacted legislation (HB2593) changing its contribution limits in 2013 but the state Court of Appeals has issued an injunction against the changes. This chart reflects the pre-HB2593 limits.

^c In Arizona, a 'super PAC' is a PAC that received contributions of \$10 or more from 500 or more individuals in the one-year period immediately prior to applying for qualification as a committee.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
California ^d Government Code §82022, 82047, 85203, 85301, 85302	\$27,200/gub candidate \$6,800/other statewide cand \$4,100/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Unlimited	Regular PAC: Same as individual limits Small contributor committee: ^e \$27,200/gub candidate \$13,600/other statewide cand \$8,200/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Colorado ^f Colo. Const. Art. XXVIII §2, 3	\$550/gub candidate (primary) \$550/gub & LG slate (general) \$550/other statewide cand \$200/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$569,530/gub & LG slate \$113,905/other statewide cand \$20,500/senate candidate \$14,805/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Regular PAC: Same as individual limits Small donor committee: ^g \$5,675/gub candidate (primary) \$5,675/gub & LG slate (general) \$5,675/ other statewide cand \$2,250/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Prohibited	Prohibited
Connecticut General Statutes §9-601, 9-611, 9-613, 9-615, 9-617	\$3,500/gub candidate \$2,000/other statewide cand \$1,000/senate candidate \$250/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ Aggregate contributions from an individual to all candidates and committees: \$30,000 <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	\$50,000/gub candidate \$35,000/other statewide cand \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Regular PAC: Same as individual limits Small donor committee: ^g \$5,675/gub candidate (primary) \$5,675/gub & LG slate (general) \$5,675/ other statewide cand \$2,250/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Prohibited	Prohibited

^d According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation in January of every odd-numbered year.

^e In California, a 'small contributor committee' is a PAC that has been in existence for at least six months, received contributions from 100 or more persons and made contributions to five or more candidates and to which no single person has contributed more than \$200 per calendar year.

^f According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every four years, starting in the first quarter of 2007.

^g In Colorado, a 'small donor committee' is a PAC that has only accepted contributions from natural persons who have each contributed \$50 or less in the aggregate per year.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Delaware 15 Del. C. §8002, 8010	\$1,200/statewide candidate \$600/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$75,000/gub candidate \$25,000/other statewide cand \$5,000/senate candidate \$3,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Florida §106.08 Fla. Stat., 106.11	\$3,000/gub & LG slate \$3,000/other statewide cand \$1,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ^{ii,h}	Aggregate contributions from all political party committees to a single candidate: \$250,000/gub & LG slate \$250,000/statewide candidate \$50,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Georgia ^h O.C.G.A. §21-5-3, 21-5-41	Regular election cycle: \$6,300/statewide candidate \$2,500/leg candidate Run-off election cycle: \$3,700/statewide candidate \$1,300/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Hawaii HRS §2:11-302, 2:11-357	\$6,000/statewide candidate \$4,000/senate candidate \$2,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Idaho I.C. §67-6610A	\$5,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$10,000/statewide candidate \$2,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

^h If a candidate is unopposed in the primary, the primary election and general election count as a single election for contribution limit purposes.

ⁱⁱ According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation at the end of the election cycle.

ⁱⁱⁱ Georgia's contribution limits were last adjusted in December 2010.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Illinois ^k 10 ILCS 5/9-8.5	\$5,300/candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Primary election if seeking nomination: \$210,500/statewide candidate \$131,600/senate candidate \$78,900/house candidate Unlimited in general election and in primary election if not seeking nomination <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$52,600/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	\$10,500/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	\$10,500/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>
Indiana Ind. Code §3-9-2-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Aggregate contributions from a corporation to all candidates: \$5,000/statewide candidates \$2,000/senate candidates \$2,000/house candidates <i>Amounts are per year.</i> Prohibited	Same as corporate limits
Iowa Iowa Code §68A.503	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Unlimited
Kansas K.S.A. §25-4143, 25-4153	\$2,000/gub & LG slate \$2,000/other statewide cand \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	Contested primary election: Same as individual limits Unlimited in general election and in uncontested primary election	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

^k According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation on January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Kentucky KRS §121.015, 121.025, 121.035, 121.150	\$1,000/candidate or slate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Aggregate contributions from all party executive committees to a single candidate or slate: 50% of total contributions accepted or \$10,000, whichever is greater/candidate or slate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$1,000/candidate or slate Aggregate contributions from all PACs to a single candidate or slate: 50% of total contributions accepted or \$10,000, whichever is greater/candidate or slate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Prohibited	Same as individual limits
Louisiana La. Rev. Stat. §18:1505.2	\$5,000/statewide candidate \$2,500/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Unlimited	Regular PAC: Same as individual limits Big PAC: ⁱ \$10,000/statewide candidate \$5,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Maine ^m 21A M.R.S.A. §1015	\$1,500/gub candidate \$750/other statewide cand \$375/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ Aggregate contributions from an individual to all candidates: \$25,000 <i>Amount is per year.</i>	Same as individual limits	Aggregate contributions from all PACs to a single candidate: \$80,000/statewide candidate \$60,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i> Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

ⁱ In Louisiana, a 'big PAC' is a PAC with over 250 members that received contributions of at least \$50 each from at least 250 members in the preceding one-year period.

^m According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every two years, starting on December 1, 2010.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Maryland Md. Code §1-101, 13-226, 13-227	Current limits: \$4,000/candidate Aggregate from an individual to all campaign finance entities: \$10,000 Effective 2015: \$6,000/candidate Aggregate from an individual to all campaign finance entities: \$24,000 <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$6,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	\$6,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	\$6,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election cycle.</i>	Same as individual limits
Massachusetts G.L.c. 55, §1, 6, 6A, 7A, 8	Aggregate contributions from an individual to all candidates and candidate committees: \$12,500 <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	\$3,000/candidate <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	\$500/candidate Aggregate contributions from all regular PACs to a single candidate (people's committees are exempt from aggregate limits ¹): \$150,000/gub candidate or gub & LG slate \$31,250/LG candidate \$62,500/AG candidate \$37,500/SOS, ST or SA candidate \$18,750/senate candidate \$7,500/house candidate <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	Prohibited	Same as PAC limits

¹ In Massachusetts, a 'people's committee' is a PAC that has been in existence for six months, received contributions from individuals of \$156 or less per year (adjusted biennially) and contributed to five or more candidates.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Michigan ^o MCL 169.211, 169.246, 169.252, 169.254	\$3,400/gub & LG slate \$3,400/other statewide cand \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$68,000/gub & LG slate \$68,000/other statewide cand \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Regular PAC: Same as individual limits Independent PAC: ^p \$34,000/gub & LG slate \$34,000/other statewide cand \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited
Minnesota Minn. Stat. \$10A.01, 10A.27, 211B.15	\$4,000/gub & LG slate \$2,500/AG candidate \$2,000/SOS or SA candidate \$1,000/leg candidate Aggregate contributions from all political committees, lobbyists, large contributors and unregistered associations to a single candidate: ^q \$700,000/gub & LG slate \$120,000/AG candidate \$80,000/SOS or SA candidate \$6,000/senate candidate \$12,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per two-year segment.^r</i>	Aggregate contributions from all political party units and dissolving principal candidate campaigns to a single candidate: \$40,000/gub & LG slate \$25,000/AG candidate \$20,000/SOS or SA candidate \$10,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per two-year segment.^r</i>	Same as individual limits	Prohibited	Same as individual limits

^o According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation at the beginning of every odd-numbered year.

^p In Michigan, an 'independent PAC' is a PAC that filed a statement of organization at least six months before the election in which it intends to make contributions and that has supported or opposed three or more candidates for nomination or election and received contributions from at least 25 persons.

^q In Minnesota, a 'large contributor' is an individual, other than the candidate, who contributes more than half the amount an individual may contribute during the election year segment.

^r In 2013, Minnesota enacted legislation (SF991) dividing election cycles into two-year segments. For offices with four- and six-year terms, limits are higher in the two-year segments during which an election for the office is held ('election year segments') and lower during non-election two-year segments ('non-election year segments'). For offices with two-year terms, limits are the same in all two-year segments. 2013-2014 is an election year segment for constitutional offices and a non-election year segment for the state Senate and this chart reflects those limits.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Mississippi Miss. Code §97-13-15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	\$1,000/candidate	Unlimited
Missouri §130.011, RSMo et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Amount is per year. Unlimited	Unlimited
Montana ^{5,u} §13-1-101 MCA, 13-35-227, 13-37-216	\$650/gub & LG slate \$320/other statewide cand \$170/leg candidate Amounts are per election. ^{iii,v}	\$23,350/gub & LG slate \$8,450/other statewide cand \$1,350/senate candidate \$850/house candidate Amounts are per election. ⁱⁱⁱ	\$650/gub & LG slate \$320/other statewide cand \$170/leg candidate Aggregate contributions from all PACs to a single candidate: \$2,750/senate candidate \$1,650/house candidate Amounts are per election. ⁱⁱⁱ	Prohibited	Same as individual limits
Nebraska ^w Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1604, 32-1608	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Nevada Nev. Const. Art. 2, NRS 294A.009, 294A.100	\$5,000/candidate Amount is per election. ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
New Hampshire RSA 664:2, 664:4	\$1,000/candidate Amounts are per election. ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits ^x	Prohibited

⁵ Litigation is pending over Montana's contribution limits. A U.S. District Court found Montana's contribution limits unconstitutional on October 3, 2012 and permanently enjoined the state from enforcing them. On October 16, 2012, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the injunction pending appeal.

^u According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation in June of the year prior to a general election year.

^v On October 7, 2013, Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Jonathan R. Motl released two letters proposing adjustments to the state's contribution limits, effective November 16, 2013. This chart reflects the proposed adjustments.

^w If a candidate is unopposed in the primary, the primary election and general election count as a single election for contribution limit purposes.

^x According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every four years, starting in 2008.

^y Despite the language of RSA 664:4, corporations are not prohibited from making contributions to candidates in New Hampshire. New Hampshire's ban on corporate contributions was declared unconstitutional by a U.S. District Court in 1999. A June 6, 2000 letter from Deputy Attorney General Steven M. Houran indicates that corporations are subject to the individual contribution limits.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
New Jersey^y N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3, 19:44A-4, 19:44A- 7.1, 19:44A-7.2, 19:44A-11.3	\$3,800/gub candidate (primary) \$3,800/gub & LG slate (general) \$2,600/other candidates <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	Unlimited	\$8,200/gub candidate (primary) \$8,200/gub & LG slate (general) \$8,200/other candidates <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
New Mexico^z NMSA 1978: §1- 19-26, 1-19-34.7	\$5,200/statewide candidate \$2,400/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	\$5,200/candidate <i>Amount is per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	Same as party limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
New York^{aa} Election Law §14- 114, 14-116	Primary election: \$19,700/Dem statewide cand \$13,675/Rep statewide cand \$6,500/other party statewide cand \$6,500/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate General election: \$41,100/gub & LG slate \$41,100/other statewide cand \$10,300/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i> Aggregate political contributions from an individual: \$150,000 <i>Amount is per year.</i>	Prohibited in primary election Unlimited in general election	Primary election: \$19,700/Dem statewide cand \$13,675/Rep statewide cand \$6,500/other party statewide cand \$6,500/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate General election: \$41,100/gub & LG slate \$41,100/other statewide cand \$10,300/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i> Aggregate political expenditures, including contributions, from a corporation: \$5,000 <i>Amount is per year.</i>	Primary election: \$19,700/Dem statewide cand \$13,675/Rep statewide cand \$6,500/other party statewide cand \$6,500/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate General election: \$41,100/gub & LG slate \$41,100/other statewide cand \$10,300/senate candidate \$4,100/assembly candidate <i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i>	

^y According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation no later than December 1 of the year preceding a general election to fill the offices of governor and lieutenant governor for a four-year term.

^z According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation the day after the general election.

^{aa} According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every four years, starting in 1995.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
North Carolina ^{bb,cc} N.C.G.S. §163-278.13, 163-278.15	\$5,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Prohibited	Prohibited
North Dakota N.D.C.C. §16.1-08.1-03.5	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Ohio ^{dd} R.C. 3517.102, 3517.104, 3599.03	\$12,155.52/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$685,571.24/statewide cand \$136,749.58/senate candidate \$68,070.90/house candidate	Same as individual limits	Prohibited	Prohibited
Oklahoma 21 OS §187.1, Ethics Comm. Rules §257:1-1-1 et seq., 257:10-1-2 et seq.	\$5,000/candidate <i>Amount is per campaign.</i>	<i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ \$50,000/gub candidate ^{ee} \$25,000/other statewide cand <i>Amounts are per campaign.</i>	Same as individual limits	Prohibited	Prohibited
Oregon ORS 260.160 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Pennsylvania 25 P.S. §3253	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Rhode Island G.L. 1956 §17-25-10.1	\$1,000/candidate Aggregate contributions from an individual to candidates and committees: \$10,000 <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	\$25,000/candidate <i>Amount is per year.</i>	\$1,000/candidate Aggregate contributions from a PAC to candidates and committees: \$25,000 <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited

^{bb} If a candidate is not on the ballot in a second primary, the second primary does not count as an election for that candidate for contribution limit purposes.

^{cc} According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every odd-numbered year, starting in 2015.

^{dd} According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation in January of each odd-numbered year.

^{ee} These limits are specified in Oklahoma's ethics rules but the state statutes have not been changed to reflect them. According to the statutes, contributions by political parties are limited to \$5,000 per candidate.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
South Carolina S.C. Code §8-13-100, 8-13-1314, 8-13-1316	\$3,500/statewide candidate \$1,000/state leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Aggregate contributions from all party committees to a single candidate: \$50,000/statewide candidate \$5,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
South Dakota SDCL 12-27-1, 12-27-7, 12-27-8, 12-27-18	\$4,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per year.</i>	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tennessee ⁸⁸ Tenn. Code §2-10-302, 2-10-306	\$3,800/statewide candidate \$1,500/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Aggregate contributions from all party committees to a single candidate: \$374,300/statewide candidate \$59,900/senate candidate \$30,000/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	\$11,200/statewide candidate \$11,200/senate candidate \$7,400/house candidate Aggregate contributions from all PACs to a single candidate: 50% of total contributions/statewide candidate \$112,300/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Same as PAC limits	Same as PAC limits
Texas Election Code §253.094	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Utah Utah Code §20A-11-101 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Vermont ⁸⁹ 17 V.S.A. §2801, 2805	\$1,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ	Unlimited	\$3,000/candidate <i>Amount is per election.</i> ⁱⁱⁱ Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Virginia Code §24.2-945 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

ⁱⁱ If a candidate is unopposed in the primary, the primary election and general election count as a single election for contribution limit purposes.

⁸⁸ According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation every two years, starting on January 1, 2013.

⁸⁹ Vermont enacted legislation (Act 64) lowering its contribution limits in 1997 but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the lower limits unconstitutional in 2006. This chart reflects the pre-Act 64 limits.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Washington ⁱⁱ RCW 42.17A.005, WAC 42.17A.405, WAC 390-05-400	\$1,800/statewide candidate \$900/leg candidate Amounts are per election. ⁱⁱⁱ \$1,000/candidate	\$90 per registered voter in district/candidate Amount is per election cycle. Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
West Virginia W.Va. Code §3-8-8, 3-8-12	Amount is per election. ⁱⁱⁱ \$10,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/assembly candidate Amounts are per election cycle.	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Prohibited	Same as individual limits
Wisconsin Wis. Stat. §11.26, 11.38	Aggregate contributions from an individual to all candidates and committees: \$10,000 Amount is per year.	Aggregate contributions from all committees subject to a filing requirement, including political party and legislative campaign committees; to a single candidate: \$700,830/gub candidate \$210,258.75/LG candidate \$350,350/AG candidate \$140,156.25/SOS or ST candidate \$22,425/senate candidate \$11,212.50/assembly candidate Amounts are per election cycle.	\$43,128/gub candidate \$12,939/LG candidate \$21,560/AG candidate \$8,625/SOS or ST candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/assembly candidate Aggregate contributions from all committees other than political party and legislative campaign committees subject to a filing requirement to a single candidate: \$485,190/gub candidate \$145,563.75/LG candidate \$242,550/AG candidate \$97,031.25/SOS or ST candidate \$15,525/senate candidate \$7,762.50/assembly candidate Amounts are per election cycle.	Prohibited	Prohibited

ⁱⁱ According to statute, contribution limits are adjusted for inflation at the beginning of each even-numbered year.

This chart is intended for informational purposes only. For official information about contribution limits, please contact the appropriate state campaign finance authority.

	Individual → Candidate	State Party → Candidate	PAC → Candidate	Corporate → Candidate	Union → Candidate
Wyoming Wyo. Stat. §2-25-102	<p>Current limit: \$1,000/ candidate</p> <p>Effective 2015: \$2,500/statewide candidate \$1,500/leg candidate</p> <p><i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i></p> <p>Current limit: Aggregate political contributions from an individual: \$25,000</p> <p>Effective 2015: Aggregate political contributions from an individual: \$50,000</p> <p><i>Amounts are per two-year period consisting of the general election year and the preceding year.</i></p>	Unlimited	<p>Current limit: Unlimited</p> <p>Effective 2015: \$7,500/statewide candidate \$3,000/leg candidate</p> <p><i>Amounts are per election.ⁱⁱⁱ</i></p>	Prohibited	Prohibited

ⁱ The definitions of 'contribution' and 'candidate' vary by state. For example, some states count in-kind contributions toward contribution limits and some count contributions to entities associated with a candidate, such as a leadership committee, as contributions to the candidate. For accurate comparisons of state contribution limits, please consult the relevant definitions.

ⁱⁱ There are also many other variations in state contribution limits. For example, some states set different limits for:

- Certain types of contributors, such as candidates and/or their family members, contractors, limited liability companies, lobbyists or out-of-state corporations, individuals and/or unions.
- Contributions made during certain time periods, such as the 21 days preceding the general election.
- Candidates who accept public financing or spending limits.

Some states aggregate contributions by related entities. For example, some states count contributions by:

- An individual's family members, such as a spouse or dependent child, toward the individual contribution limit.
 - Entities associated with a corporation, such as a parent company or subsidiary, toward the corporate contribution limit.
- Also, some states that prohibit corporations and/or unions from making direct contributions to candidates permit them to establish PACs for political contribution purposes. For more information about these variations, please contact the National Conference of State Legislatures.

ⁱⁱⁱ The primary and general election are considered separate elections for contribution limit purposes. The stated amount may be contributed in each election.